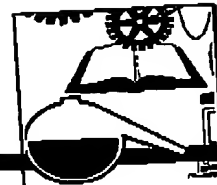


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VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A.
Suite 2000, 6109 Blue Circle Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55343-9186
952/563-3000 FAX: 952/563-3001



FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Customer Service
Group 3700
FAX NO.: 1-703-872-9301

FROM: Brendan C. Babcock

OUR FILE: S63.2-10142
Application No.
09/966,686

TIME: 4:20pm.

DATE: December 2, 2002

MESSAGE: We filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal and a Petition for Extension of Time, today December 2, 2002 via facsimile (703-872-9303). We did not receive an Auto-Reply Facsimile Transmission. Therefore, I have attached a copy of the submission to this facsimile. Please direct it to Examiner Jimenez.

Respectfully Submitted,
VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A.

By: Brendan C. Babcock
Brendan C. Babcock
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:	Austin
Application No.:	09/966,686
Filed:	October 1, 2001
For:	A Method and Apparatus for Contracting, Loading or Crimping Self-Expanding and Balloon Expandable Stent Devices
Examiner:	Marc Jimenez
Group Art Unit:	3726

Box RCE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No.: S63.2-10142

GROUP 3700

DEC 02 2002

FAX RECEIVED

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL LETTER

TO: Examiner Jimenez

Re: December 2, 2002

FACSIMILE NO.: 703-872-9303

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover letter): 3

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

Following please find a 1 page Request for Continue Examination (RCE) Transmittal; 1 page Petition for Extension of Time and 1 page Facsimile Transmittal Letter.

If a fee is required, Commissioner of Patents is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 22-0350 for any required fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A.

Date: December 2, 2002

By: Brendan C. Babcock

Brendan C. Babcock
Reg. No. 50,705

6109 Blue Circle Drive, Suite 2000
Minnetonka, MN 55343-9185
Telephone: (952) 563-3000
Facsimile: (952) 563-3001

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9303, on December 2, 2002.

Signature: Rebecca M. Painschab
Rebecca M. Painschab